

Few people realize the role of a school nurse.

Gone are the days when a school nurse simply responded to a tummy ache, a bump or bruise.

Today's school nurse serves as the critical link between families, school personnel, community and other health providers. As the front-line healthcare provider in the school setting, nurses are the first to assist students who have been injured, become ill or face an emergency.



Healthy School Environment

School Nurses promote a healthy school environment, providing for the physical and emotional safety of the school community.

School nurses also:

- Assist students with chronic illnesses that require ongoing prescribed medical treatment including monitoring blood sugar levels, administering tube feedings and performing catheterizations.
- Conduct health screenings and make referrals for various conditions including vision, hearing and scoliosis.
- Provide health assessments and referrals for health problems and medical conditions.
- Control communicable diseases by ensuring all students are immunized in accordance with the District of Columbia laws and regulations.
- Identify suspected child abuse, illegal drug use or depression and determine appropriate intervention.





Facts

About School Nurses

- In the United States, there are approximately 50,000 licensed professional school nurses providing health services to nearly 52 million children in a school setting.
- In the District of Columbia there are approximately 55,000 students in Public Schools and approximately 13,000 attending Public Charter Schools.
- Children's School Services (CSS) employs nearly 200 nurses, who provide health care and nursing for the Public Schools and Public Charter Schools in the District of Columbia.
- School nurses are on staff year-round providing the best possible services to students.
- Studies have shown students in schools that have a school nurse perform better academically. (American Federation of Teachers, July 2003)



Government of the
District of Columbia
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Children's School Services is a subsidiary of Children's National Medical Center. Health services are managed and administered by Children's School Services for the Government of the District of Columbia. Student health laws and requirements are developed and regulated by the DC Department of Health.

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Government of the
District of Columbia
SCHOOL NURSING PROGRAM

Healthy
Children =
Successful
Students

